

6 Aug

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Briefing of Mr. Viron Peter Vaky,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
for Inter-American Affairs on
[REDACTED] Operation

PARTICIPANTS : Mr. Vaky [REDACTED]
Mr. Broe, [REDACTED]

DATE AND TIME : 6 August 1968 1500-1525 Hours

1. [REDACTED] began the briefing by explaining that a series of leftist gains and difficulties for the Frei Government in 1967 (including the two by-elections, the PR and PDC leadership changes, and Frei's inability to receive Senate authorization to visit the U.S.) had raised the possibility that a popular front government might come to power in 1970. It was decided, therefore, that because the 1969 election might hold the key for 1970, an operation should be undertaken to help elect moderate candidates of the PR, PDC, and PN where it is decided, on the basis of hard information, that our support could be decisive. The results of the [REDACTED] municipal election of 1967 is being used to make projections which will assist us in choosing candidates to be supported. The 303 Committee has approved \$350,000; [REDACTED] for selective funding of candidates (there will be no party support at national level) and [REDACTED] for support activities. The program was suggested by Ambassador Korry who heads an election team of [REDACTED] Embassy and [REDACTED] Station personnel including himself. At present most of the candidates have been nominated and now the field is studying the various contests and individuals to make appropriate selections. The 303 Committee requires [REDACTED] progress reports which will begin soon. No funds have been spent to date. (Mr. Broe commented that the 303 Committee would be just as satisfied if we were not involved in this election, even on a limited scale).

2. Mr. Vaky asked what we thought of Tomic. [REDACTED] characterized Tomic as an intelligent and dynamic person. However, there is a serious question as to whether he can win if the right runs its own candidate, notably Alessandri. Allende's 39 percent vote in 1964 and probable FRAP/PR strength in 1970 (40 percent minimum) were cited.

3. Mr. Broe mentioned 303 Committee approval for [REDACTED]